



INSPIRECHURCH

Ministry Association
Manual

Inspire Church

Our Heart

The heart of **Inspire Church** (fka Christian Tabernacle) has remained consistent throughout the years. We are a worship driven church with a passion to know God and continually encounter his presence. We know that the heart of the Father is that none perish without a life-changing encounter with His presence. Therefore, we have a mission that flows out of our purpose as custodians of His presence. Our heart, ultimately, is to gather people to follow Christ in the most intimate way possible and we won't stop until everyone has been reached ... both here and around the world. We are committed to building a church and effective ministries that are racially, ethnically, socio-economically, and generationally diverse. We believe that a church community should look like "heaven on earth." Out of this heart flows a purposeful and strategic vision:

Our Vision

REACH: We believe that to reach people in this era, we must strive to be relevant, real, and relational in our interactions with people.

INSPIRE: ("breathed on by God") When God breathes on people they will experience dramatic impact. It is our mission to then inform them of their new life in Christ and the countless benefits that result from this. Then we commit to involve them in ministry and service both to God and to others.

ELEVATE: Finally, once people are inspired by God, He will enable, empower, and endow them with all that's necessary to live the elevated life.

Credentials for Ordination.

Ordination for Christian Workers license: Credentials at this level recognizes the applicant to minister within the Inspire Church organization under the direct supervision of a pastoral staff member. Applicant at this level must meet the requirements of the individual pastoral overseer or supervising ministry leader.

Ordination for Local Church Ministry: Credentials at this level authorizes applicant to minister locally and abroad with the exception of performing marriages.

- Applicants must be 17 years or older.
- Applicant must show the evidential fruit of one who is called of God, and be actively involved in ministry or working in harmony with a ministry leader over a ministry.
- Applicant will be required to attend 1st Thursday Leadership Training.
- Applicant will be required to submit a monthly report of their ministry activity to ICAM via the website "form." Failure to do so could possibly prevent applicant from advancing to the next level of licensing.
- A minimum of 1 year is required at this level before consideration will be given to advance to the next level of licensing.
- The acceptance, deferral, or denial of any applicant shall be the prerogative of the ICMA committee.

Ordination as a licensed minister: Credentials at this level authorizes applicant to minister locally and abroad including the performing of marriages.

- Applicant must be 19 years of age or older.
- Applicant must show the evidential fruit of being of being a "Call of God" and have held their local church license at least 1 year.
- Applicant should be a ministry leader in some capacity or working in harmony with a ministry leader who is over-seeing an active ministry.
- Applicant shall be required to attend 1st Thursday Leadership meetings.

- Applicant will be required to submit a monthly report of their ministry activity via the website “form” each month.
- The acceptance, deferral, or denial of any applicant shall be then prerogative of the ICAM committee.

Ordination for full-time ministry: Credential at this level authorizes applicant to minister locally and abroad with no restrictions concerning ordained ministry.

- Applicant must be 21 years of age or older.
- Applicant must have evidential fruit of one who is “called of God” and be active as a licensed minister for 2 years with a proven fruitful ministry.
- Applicant will not be required to submit monthly reports concerning ministry activity. However, Applicant is expected to maintain good communication with the ICMA leadership and keep them informed of significant changes in their ministry activity and assignment.
- Applicants who have been previously ordained by another organization, shall appear before the ICMA committee to determine the merits of their ordination and their qualifications for the ministry. The ICMA leadership shall determine whether to grant ordination or recommend other levels of licensing with ICMA.
- The acceptance, deferral, or denial of any applicant shall be the prerogative of the ICMA committee.

Obligations:

(moral & ethical)

1Timothy3:1-7 “This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); not a novice, lest being

puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.”

Titus 1:6-9 “... If a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.”

Code of Ministerial Ethics

(Not laws to govern but principles to guide)

Striving to be a good minister of the Lord Jesus Christ ...

- I will constantly prepare myself in body, mind, and spirit.
- I will safeguard the good name of the ministry; I will speak the truth in love, honesty, and avoid embarrassing debts.
- I will hold as sacred all confidences shared with me.
- I will exercise the authority of a spiritual leader rather than that of a dictator.
- I will seek to minister rather than to be ministered unto, placing service above salary and personal recognition, and the unity and welfare of the church above my own personal welfare.
- I will seek to be a leader that accepts full responsibility for community and world service.
- I will seek to work within the local church and community without discrediting other churches, soliciting members therefrom, or casting a negative reflection on other ministers.
- I will not compete with another minister or ministry that in any way harms or discredits.

Obligations of Ministerial Conduct

- No minister affiliated with ICMA shall endeavor to start a new work without the written consent and blessing of the ICMA leadership and Bishop Heard.
- No minister or church congregation pastored by a minister affiliated with ICMA shall relocate or move an existing church without the written consent and blessing of the ICMA leadership and Bishop Heard.
- All ministers having credentials with ICMA will follow the Biblical plan of financial support of the kingdom of God through tithing and offerings.
- The president and general chairman of ICMA must sign all ICMA certificates and fellowship cards.
- All ministerial certificates are void without a current fellowship card.
- Any minister who does not turn in updated records and months reports concerning the activity of their ministry will be called before the ICMA committee for a review of their ministerial credentials.
- Any minister withdrawing from the fellowship of ICMA shall be required to turn in their credentials to the ICMA committee.
- Ministers may be called upon periodically to assist the pastoral staff with church outreaches that are deemed in good standing with Inspire Church and Bishop Heard.

Preamble ...

We believe the Bible to be the inspired word of God; the infallible Word of God, "... for all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness." (2 Timothy 3:16)

The Bible is the only God-given authority which man possesses; therefore, all doctrine, faith, hope, and all instruction for the church must be based upon, and in harmony with the scriptures. It is to be read and studied by all men everywhere, and can only be clearly understood by the anointing of the Holy Spirit. (1 John 2:27) "... no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man, but Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." (2 Peter 1:20-21)

Fundamental Truths ICMA Adheres to:

The One True God: We believe in the one ever-living, eternal God: infinite in power, Holy in nature, attributes, and purpose; and possessing absolute indivisible deity. This one God exists as Father, Son, and as the Holy Spirit. As Father, He is the master architect of the entire plan of creation. Jesus (the Chief Minister) is the expression of God's bridge between Himself and man. As the Holy Spirit, He is the Revealer of Truth and serves as a down payment for salvation for eternity (the gift). God is in Jesus and Jesus is in God with the Holy Spirit as the Divine Interpreter. They are equal in purpose, equal in power, and equal in authority; completely and totally unified. There is no theological statement that can adequately and comprehensibly explain the mystery of the Godhead ... therefore, we also agree with the Apostle Paul's description in 1 Timothy 3:16; "And without controversy great is the mystery of Godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." (1 Corinthians 8:6, Ephesians 4:6, 2 Corinthians 5:19, Joel 2:28)

The scripture does more than attempt to prove the existence of God; it asserts, assumes, and declares that the knowledge of God is universal. (**Romans 1:19-21, 28, 32, and 2:15**) God is invisible, incorporeal, without parts, without body, and therefore free from all limitations. He is Spirit (John 4:24) and a spirit hath not flesh and bones. (**Luke 24:39**)

The first of all the commandments is, "Hear oh Israel, the Lord our God, He is one Lord..." (**Mark 12:29, Deut 6:4**) "One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in. You all." (**Ephesians 4:6**)

The Son of God: The one true God, Jehovah of the Old Testament, took upon Himself the form of man, and as the Son of man, was born of the virgin Mary. As Apostle Paul said, "... and without controversy great is the mystery of Godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, and received up into glory." (**1 Timothy 3:16**)

"He came unto His own, and His own received Him not." (**John 1:1**) This one true God was manifest in the flesh, that is, in His Son Jesus Christ. "... God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them..." (**2 Corinthians 5:19**)

We believe that, "...in Him (Jesus) dweller the fullness of the Godhead bodily." (**Colossians 2:9**) "For it pleased the Father that in Him (Jesus) should all fullness dwell." (**Colossians 1:19**) Therefore, Jesus in His humanity was a man; in His deity was and is God. His flesh was the lamb, or the sacrifice of God. He is the only mediator between God and man. "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." (**1 Timothy 2:15**)

The Name of Jesus: God used different titles, such as "God Elohim," "God Almighty," "El Shaddai," "Jehovah," and especially "Jehovah Lord," the redemptive name in the old testament.

“...Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6) This prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled when the Son of God was named. “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for He shall His people from their sons.” (Matthew 1:21)

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed,, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus.” (Colossians 3:17)

“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:9-11)

The Creation of Man and His Fall: In the beginning God created man innocent, pure and holy; but through the sin of disobedience. Adam and Eve, the first of the human race, fell from their holy state, and God banished them from Eden. Hence, by one man’s disobedience, sin entered into the world. (Genesis 1:27, Romans 3:23, and 5:12)

Repentance and Conversion: Pardon and forgiveness of sins is obtained by genuine repentance, a confessing and forsaking of sins. We are justified by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1) John the Baptist preached repentance, Jesus proclaimed it, and the Apostles emphasized it to both Jews and Gentiles. (Acts 2:38, 11:18, 17:30)

The word repentance comes from several Greek words, which mean, change of view and purpose, change of heart, change of mind, change of life, to transform, etc. Jesus said, “... except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” (Luke 13:3)

Luke 24:47 says, “And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”

Water Baptism: The scriptural mode of baptism is by immersion, and is only for those who have fully repented, having turned from their sins and a love for the world. It should be administered in obedience to the Word of God, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to the practice of the Apostles in [Acts 2:38, 8:16, 10:48, 19:5](#); thus obeying and fulfilling the commandment of Matthew 28:19.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit: The greatest gift that God could impart to the human family is the gift of His indwelling Spirit, for from this gift flows the gifts of the Holy Spirit. His promised arrival was spoken of in [Joel 2:28](#), John the Baptist declared, "He (Jesus) shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire!" ([Matthew 3:11](#))

Jesus promised "...ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

Luke tells us ([Acts 1:5](#)) "they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance." ([Acts 24](#))

Living waters for the believer; "He that believes on me, as the scriptures hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living waters ... But this spake He of the Spirit, which they believe on Him should receive." ([John 7:38-39](#))

Divine Healing: The vicarious suffering of the Lord Jesus Christ paid for the healing of our bodies, just as for the salvation of our souls, for "...with His stripes we are healed." ([Isaiah 53:5](#)) [Matthew 8:17](#) reads, "... He Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses." ([1 Peter 2:24](#))

Jesus Christ went about Galilee, preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and disease among the people. ([Matthew 4:23-24](#))

[James 5:14-16](#) tells us the prayer of faith shall save the sick after anointing the sick with oil in the name of Jesus Christ. Jesus promised, "... they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." ([Mark 15:18](#))

Sacrament and Communion: On the night of our Lord's betrayal, He ate the Passover supper with His Apostles, after which He instituted the sacrament. "And He took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them saying, this is my body which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me." "Likewise also the cup after supper saying, this cup is the New Testament of my blood which is shed for you." (Luke 22:19-20)

Apostle Paul instructed the church how to observe it. (1 Corinthians 11:23-24) Thus, was instituted the use of literal bread, and the fruit of the vine, which are partaken of literally. As emblems of Christ's broken body and shed blood. There is also a spiritual significance and blessing in partaking of the sacrament.

Holiness: Godly living should characterize the life of every child of God, and we should live according to the pattern and example given in the word of God. "For the grace of God that brings salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that denying all ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and Godly in this present world." (Titus 2:11-12) "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth: who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not, but committed Himself to Him that judges righteously." (1 Peter 2:21-23)

"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." (Hebrews 12:14)

"But as He which called you is holy. So be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, be ye holy, for I am holy And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." (1 Peter 1:15-19)